

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the time taken by the Examiner to review Applicant's present application. Applicant has amended Claims 1, 2, 5, 9, 11, 12, 16, 20 and 22 and added Claims 24-29. Applicant respectfully submits that these amendments add no new matter. Thus, Claims 1-29 are pending in the application. This application has been carefully reviewed in light of the Official Action mailed February 7, 2007. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and favorable action in this case.

Specification Objections

The specification stands objected to. The specification has been amended to address this objection. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment adds no new matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Objections

Claims 5, 16 and 2 stand currently objected to for various informalities. Applicant has amended these claims to address these objections and submits that these amendments do not add new matter. Accordingly, withdrawal of these objections is respectfully requested.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1 and 9-11

Claims 1 and 9-11 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,104,317 ("Panagrossi").

Claim 1 as amended recites a method for an interface for data entry, comprising detecting an initial press; detecting a release; detecting a movement between the press and release, wherein detecting the movement further comprises detecting entering or leaving one or more of a set of zones; normalizing the initial press, the movement and the release into a discrete message, wherein normalizing the initial press is based on one of the set of zones and a row corresponding to the one of the set of zones.

Panagrossi discloses a data entry device comprising a set of keys or buttons where physical actions can be performed with respect to these buttons. (See Col. 2, Lines 14-16, 23-26). However, in the device of Panagrossi, inputs or physical actions are determined with respect only to a single button. More specifically, a pointing device may contact the touch panel

within a rectangular boundary of a selected button and the pointing device is lifted while it is still positioned within the same boundary (i.e. the same button). (See Panagrossi Col. 2, Line 26-31) Thus, the inputs of Panagrossi are determined with respect only to the single selected button where the initial contact from the pointing device took place.

Specifically, Panagrossi discloses that a pair of "pen-down" coordinates is register along with an indication of the button activated. (See Panagrossi Col. 2, Line 53-57). When the pointing device is lifted a second pair of coordinates, the "pen-up" coordinates are registered. (See Panagrossi Col. 2, Line 58-60). The "pen-down" and "pen-up" coordinates are then used to determine if a tap or flick entry has occurred, and if a flick entry has occurred the direction of the flick entry. (See Panagrossi Col. 2, Line 62-Col. 3, Line 5). Using the activated button and the type/direction of entry (tap or flick) a character or operation can be identified using a table. (See Panagrossi Col. 3, Lines 8-10, 14-24). Thus, as can be seen, the character or operation of Panagrossi is determined solely with respect to a single initially activated key and a corresponding action (tap or flick) determined solely with respect to a coordinate difference.

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Panagrossi does not disclose at least detecting entering or leaving one or more of the set of zones. Additionally, Panagrossi does not disclose normalizing the initial press, the movement and the release into a discrete message, wherein normalizing the initial press is based on one of the set of zones and a row corresponding to the one of the set of zones.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 1 and Claims 9-11 dependent on Claim 1

Claims 12-19 and 23

Claims 12-19 stand rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,378,234 ("Luo"). Claim 12 as amended recites a system for an interface for data entry, comprising a sensor operable for: detecting an initial press; detecting a release; detecting a movement between the press and release, wherein detecting the movement further comprises detecting entering or leaving one or more of a set of zones; and logic operable for: normalizing the initial press, the movement and the release into a discrete message, wherein normalizing the initial press is based on one of the set of zones and a row corresponding to the one of the set of zones.

Luo discloses that an alphanumeric keypad resembling a standard telephone keypad may be used to enter alphanumeric characters with two sequentially linked keystrokes. The input of either a single keystroke or a linked pair of keystrokes is determined with respect to a

pause (time interval). If the pause between two keystrokes is less than a threshold level a certain character associated with those two keystrokes is entered. (See Luo, Col. 7, Lines 45-55 and Col. 8, Lines 1-24)

More particularly, in Luo each keystroke is encoded by the Keystroke encoder and then sent to the translator. At the same time the intervals between keystrokes are transmitted. When an interval exceeds the threshold interval value the interval is recognized as character space and a segmentation signal is sent. This segmentation signal results in the generation of a corresponding alphanumeric character. As will be noted with respect to the Luo reference, Luo detects a key presses and releases with respect to single keys and a time intervals. These key presses and time intervals are the only information utilized by Luo to determine alphanumeric characters. (See Luo, Col. 8, Lines 25-35)

Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that Luo does not disclose at least detecting entering or leaving one or more of the set of zones. Additionally, Luo does not disclose normalizing the initial press, the movement and the release into a discrete message, wherein normalizing the initial press is based on one of the set of zones and a row corresponding to the one of the set of zones.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 12 Claims 13-19 dependent on Claim 12

Claim 23

Claims 23 stands rejected as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,378,234 ("Luo").

Claim 23 recites a system for an interface for data entry, comprising a sensor operable for: detecting an initial press; detecting a release; detecting a movement between the press and release, wherein detecting the movement further comprises detecting entering or leaving one or more of a set of zones implemented with the sensor; and logic operable for: normalizing the initial press, the movement and the release into a semantic meaning based upon a context associated with each of the zones.

Thus, embodiments of the present invention may be utilized in conjunction with one or more contexts (which may, in turn, be associated with various functionality of the interface for data entry, such as an application with which it is being utilized, a language with which it is being utilized, etc.) In certain embodiments, a different context may be associated with each or all of the set of zones.

After reviewing Luo, Applicant cannot find where Luo discloses normalizing an initial press, movement and release into a semantic meaning based upon a context associated with each of the zones. The portions of Luo cited by the Examiner in rejecting Claim 23, as discussed above, only disclose that in Luo alphanumeric characters are determined based solely on keystrokes and time intervals, not on any contexts associated with each of a set of zones.

Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that Luo does not disclose at least logic operable for: normalizing the initial press, the movement and the release into a semantic meaning based upon a context associated with each of the zones as recited by Claim 23. Consequently, Applicant respectfully requests the withdrawal of the rejection of Claim 23.

Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-8 stand rejected as obvious over Panagrossi in view of Luo. Claims 20-22 stand rejected as obvious over Luo in view of Panagrossi. Applicant respectfully submits that the arguments presented above with respect to Claims 1 and 12 apply equally well here. Accordingly, the withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 2-8 and Claims 20-22 is respectfully requested.

Newly Added Claims 24-29

Applicant has added Claims 24-29 to distinctly point out and claim embodiments of the present invention, support for which can be found in the Specification. Applicant respectfully submits that these newly added do not add new matter. Furthermore, after reviewing the cited portions of the Panagrossi and Luo references, Applicant respectfully submits that the Panagrossi and Luo references, either alone or in combination, do not disclose all the limitations of these newly added claims.

Specifically, newly added Claim 24 recites detecting an input with respect to the interface wherein detecting the input comprises detecting a press in a first zone of a set of zones, detecting a release in a second zone of the set of zones and detecting a movement between the press and release, wherein detecting the movement further comprises detecting entering or leaving one or more of the set of zones between the press in the first zone and the release in the second zone and contact is maintained with the interface between the press in the first zone and the release in the second zone; and associating a semantic meaning with the

input based on a set of semantic meanings associated with the first zone, wherein the semantic meaning is selected from the set of semantic meanings based on the second zone.

With respect to the Panagrossi reference, as discussed above in the device Panagrossi inputs or physical actions or are determined with respect only to a single button where the initial contact from a pointing device took place. Panagrossi uses the single activated button and the type/direction of entry (tap or flick) to identify a character or operation using a table, where the direction of entry is determined by a difference between coordinates between the initial contact and the release.

Accordingly, as Panagrossi only detects the single button where the initial activation took place and the direction of entry based upon a difference in the coordinates, Panagrossi does not disclose detecting a release in a second zone of the set of zones and detecting a movement between the press and release, wherein detecting the movement further comprises detecting entering or leaving one or more of the set of zones between the press in the first zone and the release in the second zone and contact is maintained with the interface between the press in the first zone and the release in the second zone as recited by newly added Claim 24.

Additionally, as Panagrossi determines a semantic meaning (e.g. identifies a character or operation using the table) based solely on the single button where the initial contact and the direction of entry Panagrossi also does not disclose associating a semantic meaning with the input based on a set of semantic meanings associated with the first zone, wherein the semantic meaning is selected from the set of semantic meanings based on the second zone as recited by newly added Claim 24.

Similarly, Luo does not disclose all the limitations of newly added Claim 24. As discussed above Luo discloses that an alphanumeric keypad resembling a standard telephone keypad may be used to enter alphanumeric characters with two sequentially linked keystrokes. The input of either a single keystroke or a linked pair of keystrokes is determined with respect to a pause (time interval). If the pause between two keystrokes is less than a threshold level a certain character associated with those two keystrokes is entered, while if it is greater than the threshold another character may entered. Thus, Luo detects key presses and releases with respect to single keys and a time intervals and these key presses and time intervals are the only information utilized by Luo to determine alphanumeric characters.

As Luo only detects keystrokes and time intervals Luo does not disclose detecting a release in a second zone of the set of zones and detecting a movement between the press and release, wherein detecting the movement further comprises detecting entering or leaving one or

more of the set of zones between the press in the first zone and the release in the second zone and contact is maintained with the interface between the press in the first zone and the release in the second zone as recited by newly added Claim 24.

Furthermore, as Luo determines a semantic meaning (e.g. enters a character) based solely on key presses and a time interval Luo also does not disclose associating a semantic meaning with the input based on a set of semantic meanings associated with the first zone, wherein the semantic meaning is selected from the set of semantic meanings based on the second zone as recited by newly added Claim 24.

Moreover, as Claims 25-29 are dependent on Claim 24 or recite limitations similar to Claim 24, Applicant respectfully submits that neither Panagrossi nor Luo discloses all the limitations of Claims 25-29.

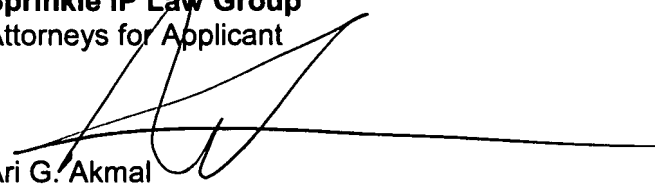
CONCLUSION

Applicant has now made an earnest attempt to place this case in condition for allowance. Other than as explicitly set forth above, this reply does not include an acquiescence to statements, assertions, assumptions, conclusions, or any combination thereof in the Office Action. For the foregoing reasons and for other reasons clearly apparent, Applicant respectfully requests full allowance of Claims 1-29. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number listed below for prompt action in the event any issues remain.

The Director of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 50-3183 of Sprinkle IP Law Group.

Respectfully submitted,

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